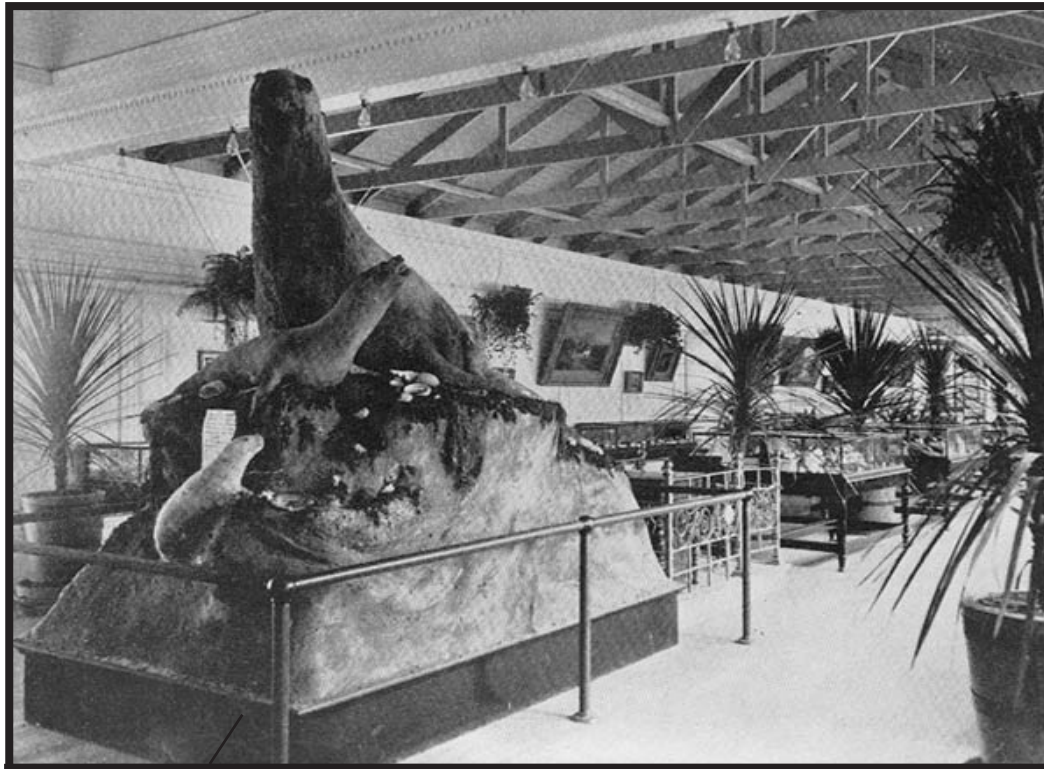


## Ben Butler

On a visit to the Cliff House in the early 1860s, Horace Greeley, a famous newspaper publisher, spotted a huge sea lion on Seal Rocks. He dubbed the creature, Ben Butler, after the Civil War general.

As time went by Ben Butler became almost as famous as Seal Rocks themselves and tourists always hoped to catch a glimpse of the hefty 4,890 lb., "King of the Seals".

Ben Butler died in 1895 after a vicious battle with another male sea lion. His death was featured in many major newspapers. This celebrity was then stuffed and displayed at Sutro Baths.



1011 Seals on the Rocks at the Cliff House, showing old Ben Butler, the famous King of the Seals, now deceased



## BIG BEN BUTLER DEAD.

The Great Sea Lion of the Seal Rocks Expires on the Sand.

He Fought Some Hard Battles, but Was Worsted—The Sad Scene on the Beach.

"Ben Butler" is dead. That magnificent specimen of the sea lion who for forty years has been one of the attractions at the Cliff House, floated in with the tide yesterday morning sorely wounded and lay his great bulk down on the soft sand in the shallow water and calmly awaited the end.

As the tide ebbed away he raised himself with great effort, turned his eyes toward his companions on the rocks and bellowed pitifully as expressing his intense sorrow. His cry was answered by a chorus of roars such as had never been heard before on the seal rocks. Then he turned upon his side prepared for his fate.

The workmen at the new Cliff House, which is in course of construction, were attracted to the unusual scene, and W. G. Blunt and L. Samuel, engaged in arranging the museum, waded out to the death-bed of the aged bull. When they reached him he was fast expiring. He turned his great eyes upon them, attracted by the sympathy which they expressed. Making one feeble effort to raise his head he uttered a moan and died without a struggle.

The men were deeply affected by the scene and stood in silence for several minutes.

Then they prepared for his removal to the shore, a task that was by no means an easy one. The great fellow weighed 4890 pounds, was over 15 feet long and 8 feet 9 inches around the body.

The peculiar marks of age, a long, shaggy mane, a foretop of hair some five inches in length, proved to those who knew him well that the dead sea lion was really "Ben Butler."

There had been war on the seal rocks and Ben Butler had got the worst of several hard battles. His wounds were fresh but not deep. It required twelve men and four horses to remove the body. They had all they could do to convey the charge to the museum. The work occupied nearly the whole day.

Mayor Satro will have the carcass properly prepared by a taxidermist and placed in the Cliff House museum, where the crowds who have seen him in life may look upon his remains.